

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00654 211259Z

47

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

DRC-01 SAM-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 /171 W

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O R 211244Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5650

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0654

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), EI

SUBJECT: IRISH WITHDRAWAL OF UNEF CONTINGENT

REFS: STATE 104661; DAMASCUS 0806; USUN 1870 AND 1880

1. CHARGE CALLED ON PERMSEC PAUL KEATING PRIOR TO CABINET MEETING SCHEDULED AT 11:00 A.M. AND URGED THAT GOI PROPOSE TO UN THAT WITHDRAWAL OF IRISH UNEF TROOPS BE REGARDED AS ONLY TEMPORARY, DEPENDING UPON HOW THE SECURITY SITUATION WITHIN IRELAND DEVELOPS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. IN ADDITION TO MAKING POINTS CONTAINED REFTELS, CHARGE NOTED THAT THIS STEP WOULD IN NO WAY LIMIT GOI FROM KEEPING THEIR TROOPS INDEFINITELY AT
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HOME IF THE DOMESTIC SITUATION WERE IN FACT SO SERIOUS

THAT THIS WERE NECESSARY. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD ALSO PUT BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON DEVELOPMENTS AT HOME SINCE IT WOULD SEEM TO SUGGEST THAT GOI DID NOT REGARD LOCAL SITUATION AS ALL THAT DESPERATE AND, AT WORST, ONLY TEMPORARY.

2. KEATING REPLIED THAT IRISH UNEF CONTINGENT IS COMPOSED OF HIGHLY TRAINED TROOPS WHO ARE SKILLED IN CROWD CONTROL AND OTHER TECHNIQUES BADLY NEEDED AND IN SHORT SUPPLY IN PRESENT SITUATION IN IRELAND. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HOPELESS TO TRY AND PATROL THE ACTUAL BORDER, BUT THAT IRISH THINKING WAS NOW FOCUSED ON SETTING UP A SECONDARY LINE OF CONTROL ALONG THE BOYNE RIVER WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MUCH EASIER TO INTERCEPT AND INSPECT VEHICLES COMING FROM THE NORTH. HE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE NORTHERN IRELAND QUESTION MAY NOW BE AT A FLASHPOINT AND OPINED THAT THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO WOULD TELL WHICH WAY IT WAS GOING TO GO. IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT THE GOI BELIEVES IT HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BRING IRISH UNEF TROOPS BACK TO IRELAND.

3. NEVERTHELESS, KEATING AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE IRISH INTEREST, AS WELL AS IN THE INTERESTS OF OURSELVES AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH PEACE IN THE MIDEAST, IF THE GOI COULD SAY THAT IRISH UNEF TROOP WITHDRAWALS WERE ONLY TEMPORARY. HE WAS IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING THE MINISTER'S POSITION PAPER FOR THE CABINET MEETING THIS MORNING, AND HE PROMISED THAT THE MINISTER WOULD URGE THE CABINET TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WE HAD MADE. HE PROMISED TO LET US KNOW AS SOON AS THE CABINET HAD ARRIVED AT THEIR DECISION.
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